



Sustainable Arlington An Envision Arlington Environment Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: Arlington Town Hall Annex, 1st floor Conference Room, 730
Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA

Present: Amos Meeks, Monique Ouimette, Scott Samenfeld, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton

The meeting began with introductions.

In the near future, Sustainable Arlington will review and update its vision statement. However, the Standing Committee is not yet ready to get this process going for all the task groups.

Monique Ouimette recently completed a Ph.D. in Sociology, focusing on the environment and consumption. She is particularly interested in how cultural norms and values affect our decisions about choosing everyday products, in some cases keeping us from seeing or taking into account their potential downsides. Examples include lawn and garden treatments (fertilizers as well as pesticides, single use plastics, and toxics in building products).

We discussed potential public outreach related to toxics in everyday life and ways to proceed.

Brucie Moulton gave a brief update on the HeatSmart application filed by the Town of Arlington with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. Amos Meeks, Charlotte Milan and Brucie are on the core volunteer team. Ryan Katofsky, Arlington's Solarize Coach in 2012, will share his Solarize materials and experience with the HeatSmart Coach. A decision regarding 2019 HeatSmart participants is expected in October. If Arlington is selected, Sustainable Arlington will help with publicity and volunteer sign ups.

Sustainable Arlington is supporting the September 23rd event "Paint the Town Green," to be held at Town Hall. Speakers are Ken Pruitt, Town Energy Manager; Erin Taylor, Marketing and Membership Manager, Energy Consumers' Alliance (formerly Mass Save), Dr. Kathy Bodie, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools; Rachel Oliveri, School Sustainability Coordinator; and Nili Perlmutter, Arlington

Mothers Out Front. The event will highlight the many steps Arlington has taken to increase energy efficiency, switch to renewable energy, and prepare in other ways to become a net zero community by 2050.

New business.

1. Arlington Mothers Out Front will be tagging all 205 gas leaks in town on the weekend of Oct. 27-28. The goal is to raise public awareness of the number of gas leaks in Arlington and throughout the state; the volume of gas being wasted; and the impacts on public health and climate change. Volunteers are needed. Families with children as well as groups of neighbors or friends can sign up to help tag on one or both days.
2. Sustainable Arlington's Yahoo Groups email list. Current leadership received a suggestion from Sustainable Arlington's founder, Marc Breslow, that it could be time to migrate to a new platform with a bigger audience. We discussed using a Google group vs. a moderated Facebook group with a unanimous vote in favor of the latter. Amos Meeks will create the Sustainable Arlington Facebook group and will be one of two moderators. We will continue to maintain our Yahoo Group as a legacy system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Brucie Moulton.